Please delete page "9/10" and "10/10" of the drawings, also labeled as "Reference Numerals In The Drawings" in its entirety.

## IN THE CLAIMS:

## Please amend the claims as follows:

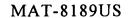
	1	1. (Amended) A top sealing plate used for a battery,
	2	comprising:
	3	a filter, a cap, and a valve body,
	4	wherein said filter includes a valve hole and upper opening;
An	5 6	said cap has a convex portion, and a flange portion disposed around said convex portion;
	7 8	an opening end of said upper opening of said filter has a bend portion;
	9	an outer periphery end of said flange portion of said cap and said
	10	bend portion include a caulked portion that is caulked and jointed to each
	11	other;
	12	said caulked portion is formed by caulking while said outer
	13	periphery end of said flange is positioned in said bend portion;
	14	said valve body is disposed to cover said valve hole, in a space
	15	formed between said cap and said filter;
	16	said caulked portion includes both contact states of (i) a strong
	17	contact portion and (ii) a weak contact portion, between the surface of the outer
	18	periphery end of said flange and said bend portion; and
		- · · · ·

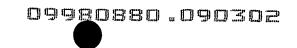
	19	said cap and said filter are electrically connected to each other by
	20	the contact with said outer periphery end and said bend portion at said caulked
	21	portion.
	1	6. (Amended) A top sealing plate used for a battery,
	2	comprising:
	3	a filter, a cap, and a valve body,
	4	wherein said filter includes a valve hole and upper
	5	opening;
A	6	said cap has a convex portion, and a flange portion
718	7	disposed around said convex portion;
	8	an opening end of said upper opening of said filter has a
	9	bend portion;
	10	an outer periphery end of said flange portion of said cap
	11	and said bend portion include a caulked portion that is caulked and
	12	jointed to each other;
	13	said caulked portion is formed by caulking while said
	14	outer periphery end is positioned in said bend portion;
	15	said valve body is disposed to cover said valve hole, in a
	16	space formed between said cap and said filter;
	17	a surface of said outer periphery end of said flange has a
	18	projection;
	19	said outer periphery end including the plurality of
	20	projections and said bend portion are caulked;

21	said strong contact portion is formed with said
22	projection contacted on said bend portion; and
23	said cap and said filter are electrically connected to each
24	other, by contact between said outer periphery end at the caulked
25	portion and said bend portion.
1	12. (Amended) A top sealing plate used for a battery,
2	comprising:
3	a filter, a cap, and a valve body,
4	wherein said filter includes a valve hole and upper
5	opening;
6	said cap has a convex portion, and a flange portion
7	disposed around said convex portion;
8	an opening end of said upper opening of said filter has a
9	bend portion;
10	an outer periphery end of said flange portion of said cap
11	and said bend portion include a caulked portion that is caulked and
12	jointed to each other;
13	said caulked portion is formed by caulking while said
14	outer periphery end is positioned in said bend portion;
15	said valve body is disposed to cover said valve hole, in a
16	space formed between said cap and said filter
17	a surface of said outer periphery end of said flange has a
18	projection;
	ry <del></del>

	19	said outer periphery end including said projection and
	20	said bend portion are caulked;
	21	said cap and said filter are electrically connected to each
	22	other, by contact between said outer periphery end at said caulked
Aq	23	portion and said bend portion;
	24	the distance from a mating face of said filter and cap to
	25	the peak of said projection is greater than the thickness of said
	26	flange portion; and
	27	each of the peaks has a stronger contact pressure against
	28	said bend portion of said filter as compared with zones other than
	29	said peaks.
	1	14. (Amended) A top sealing plate used for a battery,
	2	comprising:
A,	3	a filter, a cap, and a valve body,
	4	wherein said filter includes a valve hole and upper
	5	opening;
	6	said cap has a convex portion, and a flange portion
	7	disposed around said convex portion;

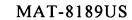
	8	an opening end of said upper opening of said filter has a
	9	bend portion;
	10	an outer periphery end of said flange portion of said cap
	11	and said bend portion include a caulked portion that is caulked and
,	12	jointed to each other;
	13	said caulked portion is formed by caulking while said
Â10	14	outer periphery end is positioned in said bend portion;
	15	said valve body is disposed to cover said valve hole, in a
	16	space formed between said cap and said filter;
	17	said cap and said filter are electrically connected to each
	18	other, by contact between said outer periphery end at said caulked
	19	portion and said bend portion;
	20	said caulked portion includes an integral projection such
	21	that said outer periphery end and said bend portion are integrally
	22	projected;
	23	said integral projection is formed by pressing a
	24	protuberant tool from above the bend portion, in a state that said
	25	outer periphery end is positioned in said bend portion; and
	26	said integral projection has a stronger contact pressure
	27	as compared with zones other than said integral projection.
	1	16. (Amended) A battery, comprising:
	2	a battery case, a positive electrode, a negative electrode,
A	3	electrolyte, a gasket, and a top sealing plate,

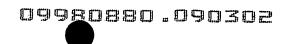




4	wherein said positive electrode, said negative electrode,
5	and said electrolyte are disposed in said battery case;
6	said battery case has an opening;
7	said top sealing plate is disposed at the opening of said
8	battery case, in a state of being electrically insulated by said gasket
9	so as to close said battery case;
lΟ	said filter is electrically connected to said positive
l 1	electrode;
12	said top sealing plate comprises a filter, cap, and valve
13	body;
l4	said filter has a valve hole and upper opening;
15	said cap has a convex portion, and a flange portion
16	disposed around said convex portion;
۱7	an opening end of said upper opening of said filter has a
18	bend portion;
۱9	an outer periphery end of said flange portion of said cap
20	and said bend portion include a caulked portion that is caulked and
21	joined to each other;
22	said caulked portion is formed by caulking while said
23	outer periphery end is positioned in said bend portion;
24	said valve body is disposed to cover said valve hole, in a
25	space formed between said cap and said filter;

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	26	said caulked portion includes both states of contact of (i)
	27	a strong contact portion and (ii) a weak contact portion, between the
	28	surface of the outer periphery end of said flange and said bend
An	29	portion; and
	30	said cap and said filter are electrically connected to each
	31	other, due to contact established between said outer periphery end
	32	and said bend portion at said caulked portion.
	1	23. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a battery,
	2	comprising the steps of:
	3	(a) disposing a positive electrode, a negative electrode,
	4	and electrolyte in a battery case;
Aiz	5	(b) manufacturing a top sealing plate;
	6	(c) electrically connecting said filter and said positive
	7	electrode; and
	8	(d) disposing said top sealing plate at the opening of said
	9	battery case via an electrical insulating gasket in order to close the
	10	opening,
	11	wherein the step of manufacturing said top sealing plate
	12	comprises the steps of:
	13	(1) forming a filter having a valve hole and upper
	14	opening;
	15	(2) bending the opening end of the upper opening of said
	16	filter, to form a bend portion;

17	(3) forming a cap having a convex portion and a flange
18	portion disposed around said convex portion;
19	(4) caulking to join the outer periphery end to said bend
20	
. 21	
4 <sub>J2</sub> 22	
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23	(5) disposing a valve body serving to cover the valve
24	hole in a space formed between said cap and said filter, and
25	wherein the step of forming said caulked portion
26	includes a step of electrically connecting said cap and filter to each
27	
28	
29	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
30	
31	* * * *

Respectfully Submitted

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Kathleen Libby